MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

"I do not plan and I do not intend to enter politics," President Yitzhaq Navon declared in an announcement broadcast by IDF Radio. According to THE JERUSALEM POST, neither the Likud nor the Alignment take Navon's decision seriously and are "convinced" that he will seek to lead the Alignment during the next elections.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The subcommittees at Khaldah held intensive discussions on details of agenda items and made progress toward bridging gaps between the Israeli and Lebanese viewpoints, according to Israeli and Lebanese official statements issued at the end of the 11th round of talks and broadcast by Jerusalem and Beirut radios. The three subcommittees began further talks at Netanya, Israel, on 1 February, Jerusalem radio noted. The items on their agenda are: definition of the security strip, border crossing points, and Israeli-Lebanese commercial and economic ties.

During the Khaldah talks progress was made on military matters, especially security arrangements, Beirut radio reported. The Lebanese delegation again rejected Israel's proposals for early warning stations and reiterated Lebanon's support for the U.S. role in the talks, the radio said citing an official source. The Israeli delegation issued a press statement affirming that "progress could have been made in the talks" if Lebanon had not surrendered to Arab pressure against the normalization of Israeli-Lebanese relations, Jerusalem radio reported. Lebanon's surrender to Arab pressure and dictates could drag Lebanon toward further instability and violence, the statement warned.

Security Situation -- Druze-Christian clashes erupted in and around 'Alayh on 31 January and continued early on 1 February, according to Beirut radio and other local radios. In another development the IDF spokesman denied a 1 February Voice of Lebanon radio report that a mechanized Israeli force had attempted to enter Hayy as-Sullum in southern Beirut by penetrating U.S. Marine lines. According to Jerusalem radio, the IDF spokesman affirmed that the Israelis were "under no circumstances" crossing the railway line into the multinational force area. The Voice of Lebanon subsequently reported that the Israeli unit withdrew after approaching the U.S. positions.

Reporting on the Al-Biqa' situation, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said that Syrian forces in the valley are on maximum alert and that the IDF has continued to strengthen its positions with additional fortifications and heavy tanks.

PLO

'Arafat Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis following his visit to the YAR and is expected to meet with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who is currently there on an official visit, according to TAP. PLO Executive Committee members and leaders of the eight PLO factions will meet in Algiers on 10 February to draft a report on PLO strategy which will be submitted to the PNC session on 14 February, Radio Monte Carlo reported quoting a PLO official. 'Arafat will ask that the PNC elect the PLO Executive Committee chairman instead of the Executive Committee itself, the radio added citing unconfirmed reports in Damascus.

Arab Committee Participation -- PNC Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Khalid al-Hasan will represent the PLO in the Arab seven-member committee during its visit to London, INA announced. The director of the PLO office in Morocco, Ibrahim as-Sus, said the British Government told Al-Hasan in Tunis that it approved his participation in the committee's talks with British officials, INA added.

Officials on Lebanon, Syria, Internal Policy -- The PLO Executive Committee adopted decisions to confront 'illegitimate and unjust" Lebanese measures against the Palestinians and warned Lebanese authorities about the "possible consequences" if the Lebanese Army continues to arrest Palestinians, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported citing remarks by a PLO spokesman. Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf urged the Lebanese Government to treat the Palestinians the same way it treats the citizens of any Arab country, the London paper AL-HAWADITH reported in an interview with Khalaf. He added that Lebanon will no longer be the scene of PLO military actions, but that in his view Lebanon should be the PLO center for the dissemination of political information. Khalaf called for a calm Syrian-Palestinian dialogue in the interest of Syria and the Palestinian cause. In other remarks the PFLP representative on the PLO Executive Committee, Ahmad al-Yamani, affirmed that Syria has always been the "springboard" for the liberation of Palestine, Damascus radio reported citing Al-Yamani's remarks to a SANA correspondent. He added that the primary task is to build Palestinian national unity and deepen the militant cohesion between Syria and the Palestinian resistance. Al-Yamani declared that any leadership that tries to deviate from the objectives of the Palestinian struggle will be rejected and "brought down" by the people, the radio noted.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi stressed Iran's "neither East nor West" policy during a meeting with PRC Foreign Ministry adviser He Ying although he said Iran hopes to expand relations with the PRC, IRNA reported. In another development Syria's Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur are expected to visit Tehran to deliver a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i, according to Damascus radio.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Musavi stated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's declared willingness to come to Iran and negotiate with Ayatollah Khomeyni on ending the war is aimed at deceiving international public opinion, IRNA noted.

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DOST, INDIAN OFFICIAL DISCUSS NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD010807 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Natwar Singh, India's deputy minister of foreign affairs and candidate for secretary general of the seventh nonaligned summit conference, arrived in Kabul today to hold a series of talks on the forthcoming conference of heads of state or goverment to be held in New Delhi. He was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sakhi Daneshjo, a number of high-ranking ministerial officials, and Indian Ambassador to Kabul J.N. Dixit.

According to another report, Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met Natwar Singh this afternoon in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sarwar Yuresh and Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy ministers of foreign affairs, were present. During this meeting, views were exchanged in a cordial, friendly atmosphere on topics of mutual interest and on the agenda of the seventh nonalogned summit.

KARACHI REPORTS ON MUJAHIDIN OPERATIONS

Convoy Ambushed

BK290933 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin attacked a Soviet-Karmal military convoy on the Samangan highway, inflicting heavy loss of life. The mujahidin destroyed 2 tanks and damaged 16 armored vehicles. The mujahidin had advance information about the convoy and ambushed it on 6 January, resulting in fierce fighting. The mujahidin captured a large quantity of weapons and ammunition during the operation.

Qandahar Action

BK010503 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin in Afghanistan have launched further actions in Qandahar region and town. The mujahidin last week attacked a military post of the Soviet and Karmal forces at (Pashtun Bagh) in Qandahar region, damaging two tanks and killing and injuring Soviet and Karmal troops. The next day, the mujahidin attacked Karmal forces in Shahr-e Now. On the same day, the mujahidin ambushed a military convoy carrying supplies from Qandahar to (Arzistan) Subdivision, killing a number of troops, injuring eight of them, and damaging a tank.

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR GDR VISIT 2 JANUARY

LD280313 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] Khalil Ahmad Abawi, deputy prime minister and president of the Afghan-GDR Friendship Society, left today at the head of a delegation for an official and friendly visit to the GDR. He was invited by the GDR-Afghan Friendship Society.

Deputy Prime Minister Gol Dad, members of the Council of Ministers, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department, officials of the State Planning Committee, and the GDR ambassador in Kabul saw off the delegation at Kabul International Airport.

The vice chairman of the Council of Ministers subsequently will pay an official and friendly visit to Bulgaria at the invitation of high-level Bulgarian officials.

POLITICAL PARTIES CRITICIZE ERSHAD PLAN

BK311356 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Several political parties in Bangladesh have described the military ruler Lieutenant General Ershad's plan to change the country's constitution as an attempt to distort democracy. Fifteen political parties, including the Awami League, in a joint statement in Dhaka have also asked his government to lift martial law and restore democracy on the basis of the 1972 Constitution suspended earlier by Lt Gen Ershad. Lt Gen Ershad had said in a broadcast last night that a transition to democracy will start with elections to self-governing local councils later this year, but elections for a national assembly will be held only after the 1972 Constitution is amended and restored.

ERSHAD LEAVES FOR KUWAIT, MOROCCO, JORDAN

BK310940 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0830 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad left Dhaka today for Kuwait on the first leg of his visits to Kuwait, Morocco, and Jordan. He is undertaking these visits at the invitations of Amir Shaykh Jabir as-Sabah of Kuwait, King Hassan of Morocco, and King Husayn of Jordan.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport prior to his departure, Gen Ershad said that during his visit he will have discussions with leaders of the three brotherly countries on wide-ranging subjects. These will include bilateral, regional, and international issues and matters related to the Islamic community. He expressed the hope that his visits will further strengthen the existing brotherly relations and cooperation with these friendly Muslim nations. He said Bangladesh has been working in close cooperation with these countries at various international forums for the welfare of the Muslim world and world peace.

After a 2-day stay in Kuwait, the CMLA will depart for Rabat on a 5-day visit to Morocco. On his way home, Gen Ershad will make a brief visit to Amman at the invitation of King Husayn. The CMLA is scheduled to return home on February.

His entourage includes Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives Mahbubur Rahman. The deputy chief martial law administrators, ministers, dip'omats, and senior civil and military officials were among those seeing off the CMLA at the airport.

TWO STUDENT LEADERS RELEASED IN 'GESTURE'

BK301008 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The government released two student leaders at Dhaka yesterday who had been arrested on the 25th of this month.

An official announcement in Dhaka yesterday said despite specific charges against them, the decision to release the student leaders was taken in a show of magnanimity by the authorities to help create a congenial academic atmosphere. The government hoped that the students will appreciate this gesture and refrain from being misled and exploited by interested quarters.

NIGERIAN PRESIDENT DEPARTS; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

BK281119 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] India and Nigeria have expressed grave concern at the increasing escalation of the great power military presence in the Indian Ocean and the transformation of Diego Garcia into a military base.

In a joint communique released today at the end of the 4-day state visit of Nigerian President Shehu Shagari to India, the two countries affirmed their full support to the restoration of the Chagos archipelago to Mauritius. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Shagari agreed that recent developments in Southwest Asia are the natural consequence of aggravated tensions and great power confrontation in the region. Reaffirming their belief in the cardinal principles of nonintervention and noninterference in the internal affairs of all states, the two leaders called for a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Earlier, Nigerian President Shehu Shagari was accorded a warm and ceremonial sendoff when he left New Delhi this morning at the end of his official visit. President Giani Zail Singh, Prime Minister Gandhi, her Cabinet colleagues, and three service chiefs saw him off at the airport.

GANDHI INSTRUCTS MINISTRIES 'TO TONE UP'

BK010909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister has instructed various ministries to tone up administrative machinery and improve their efficiency. Mrs Gandhi has written to them (?in person) in this connection.

She called in secretaries of some ministries and instructed them about measures to remove corruption and make the administration more responsive to the people's requirements. In one of the letters, she has said it is high time that all ministers and officials make the best efforts to bring about a change in our political and administrative culture. Among those who were called in to the meeting were the secretaries for shipping and transport and industry and commerce.

Gandhi wanted top officers to undertake surprise checks to ensure punctuality in the offices. There should be periodic campaigns for cleanliness. Loopholes should be plugged to ensure that top secrets are not leaked out. There should be improved coordination between various departments and scheduled meetings should not be postponed as it gives a chance to interested parties to maneuver. Gandhi urged the administration to ensure that people are not made to run from pillar to post for routine matters.

STRIKES PROHIBITED, BOMBS EXPLODE IN ASSAM

BK010334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] The Assam government has prohibited strikes under the Essential Services Maintenance Act in connection with the Lok Sabha election duty. The government has already banned strikes in services pertaining to the elections for the Assam assembly.

Agency reports say that there were bomb explosions in Nalbari and (Makkeshwar) village in Kamrup District.

UN'S CORDOVEZ RETURNS FROM TALKS IN KABUL

BK311014 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, has said that he had very detailed talks on a political solution to the Afghan issue and that he is satisfied with the attitude of the Kabul authorities.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad upon his return from Kabul this afternoon, he said: We are holding talks very seriously on all points in order to arrive at an agreement on related important matters, including a comprehensive settlement of this dispute and a dialogue with the Af han refugees. [as heard] He said he will continue talks on these points and consultations at the diplomatic level between the concerned parties. When asked whether he will visit Kabul again, Cordovez said this depends upon further talks with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. He said he sincerely desires a solution to the issue and that he has had the cooperation of the three parties from the very beginning. He said the framework prepared for the solution to this issue is very clear and distinct.

REPORTAGE ON NIGERIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

28 January Arrival

BK281118 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari was accorded a very warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad today on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq met him at the airport. The two leaders shook hands and embraced each other. The distinguished guest was given a 21-gun salute. An honor guard formed from members of the three armed forces was presented and the national anthems of the two countries were played.

Those present at the airport to receive the Nigerian president included Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, Army Vice Chief of Staff General Mohammad Sawar Khan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamin, Naval Chief Admiral Karamat Rahman Niazi, Federal Advisory Council Chairman Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, federal ministers, members of the Federal Advisory Council, members of consulates and diplomatic missions, high civil and military officials, and Nigerian citizens living in Pakistan.

Presidential Talks

BK281606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Pakistan and Nigeria agreed in principle to set up a joint ministerial commission which will provide a stable and permanent administrative infrastructure for promoting cooperation in various fields. This agreement was reached during the formal talks between Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the Presidency in Islamabad this evening.

An official spokesman told newsmen after the talks that the two sides identified a number of fields in which the countries can develop cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. These include agriculture, irrigation, communications, especially railways, joint ventures, and the training of administrative personnel. Training will be provided in radio and television in the field of information and cooperation will be developed.

An official spokesman said that while reviewing issues of international concern, a complete identity of views between the two sides was noted on various major issues, which included the Middle East dispute, the Palestinian issue, the Iran-Iraq war, the Afghan situation, Namibian independence, and African issues like racial discrimination and the end of colonialism.

The talks found the two countries' view on the coming nonaligned summit were found to be identical. The two sides agreed to make the Nonaligned Movement strong and effective so that it can play a historical role in the current international situation. The two heads of state also agreed that the delegations of the two countries at the nonaligned summit should work together with delegations of other countries having identical views so that the summit can be made a success. The spokesman said that the talks, which lasted 2 hours, were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere.

The Nigerian president expressed the desire to benefit from Pakistan's experiences in establishing a new capital. He said he is very much impressed by all that he has seen in Islamabad so far. The Radio Pakistan correspondent says the Nigerian president was highly impressed by the overwhelming welcome accorded to him on his arrival in Pakistan and he was happy to know that he was the first head of state to stay at the Presidency in Islamabad. The Nigerian president and members of his delegation entered the Presidency after the recitation of the sura yasin [Koranic verse] and prayers.

Our corespondent understands that ministers of concerned departments of both countries will have separate meetings tomorrow to further review the issues that came up during the discussion between the two heads of state and to give them practical shape.

Banquet Remarks

BK291146 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari have expressed the hope that the friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria will continue to grow in the interests of the peoples of the two countries. They were speaking at a banquet given by the president of Pakistan in honor of the Nigerian president at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency].

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in his speech expressed the hope that the Nigerian president's visit would open a new chapter for development of relations between the peoples of the two countries. He said in their talks today they have already reached a wide measure of understanding for enhancement of bilateral cooperation in agriculture, commerce, communications, education, and other fields: the agreement signed by them today would go a long way in giving boost to their commercial exchanges. He said this was a beginning for a deeper and more effective institutionalized relationship between their two countries. Other matters discussed today, he said, will further strengthen their cooperation in all the desired fields.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, the president said the entire world was aware of the total disregard with which the sovereignty of Afghanistan has been violated for the last 3 years. He said Pakistan believed that foreign troops must be withdrawn from Afghanistan, the Afghan people be allowed to choose their own way of life and their own form of government.

Referring to the Middle East, the president said that Pakistan supports the Fes proposal for the durable peace in the region which must be based on the principles of Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the Al-Quds and the restitution of inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. About the Iran-Iraq war, the president said it had been Pakistan's constant endeavor to bring to an end this war which has weakened the Islamic as well as the Third World countries.

The president referred to the situation in the region which he said had somewhat been relieved by certain attempts in South Asia. He said there had been some forward movement in Pakistan's efforts to seek better relations with India. The two countries have agreed to set up a joint commission and some other confidence building measures are also under discussion. It is Pakistan's endeavor that all issues between the two countries are resolved peacefully. The president paid tribute to the untiring efforts of the Nigerian president for the total liberation of Africa from all vestiges of colonialism, racial domination, and apartheid in South Africa. He voiced moral and political support for the people of Namibia and South Africa.

Replying, Alhaji Shehu Shagari said the exchange of views that has taken place today with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will no doubt further strengthen their resolve to consolidate and enhance their cordial relations and to act together in pursuit of solutions to the numerous international problems which have beset the world. He said Nigeria and Pakistan had continuously enjoyed very friendly ties for the better part of the two decades. Nigeria has also benefited from Pakistan's manpower involvement in its development.

Referring to Afghanistan, he said Nigeria had been extremely concerned that the Afghan crisis had now dragged on for over 3 years and continued unabated. He said his country appreciates the invaluable assistance that Pakistan has been rendering to the Afghan refugees. He said Nigeria fully supports Pakistan's call for a political settlement of this crisis. He said we strongly urge all parties to the dispute to review their positions and strive hard for an early settlement.

Alhaji Shehu Shagari said Nigeria is delighted to note the beginning of constructive dialogue between Pakistan and India. He said their talks for a no-war pact had been an occasion for joy and they wished both the countries every success in their genuine pursuit of lasting peace. He also commended Pakistan's efforts for trying to restore peace between Iran and Iraq.

President of Nigeria Alhaji Shehu Shagari was conferred the highest civil award of Nishan-i-Pakistan by the president at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-sadr in Islamabad tonight. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was conferred the highest Nigerian national award of Grand Commander of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the investitute.

Shagari: No Criticism on F-16

BK310631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari said that he is very satisfied with his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and he understands that his visit to Pakistan will not only strengthen friendship between the two countries, but will also help Nigeria benefit from Pakistan's technology in agricultural and industrial fields. Talking to the editorial board of the PAKISTAN TIMES in Lahore yesterday, he said Nigeria hopes to talk full advantage of Pakistan's experience in various fields.

Talking about the Afghan issue, the Nigerian president expressed appreciation for Pakistan's stand and said all justice-loving people of the world also take the same stand. The basic question is whether the Afghan people will be granted an opportunity for self-determination and this is not possible with the presence of foreign troops in that country.

The Nigerian president told the interviewers that he had not criticized Pakistan's acquisition of F-16's from the United States. He was asked to comment on a statement published in Indian newspapers in which he had reportedly said that Pakistan's purchase of these aircraft could upset the balance of power in the region. Categorically describing these reports as baseless, the Nigerian president said that he has made no such statement.

Joint Communique

BK010312 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Pakistan and Nigeria have called for immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and the restoration of its independence and nonaligned status. This has been stated in a joint communique issued at the end of the Nigerian president's state visit to Pakistan.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Nigerian president hoped that the UN secretary general's efforts would lead to a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan crisis. President Shagari appreciated Pakistan's efforts in looking after nearly 3 billion [as heard] Afghan refugees and emphasized the need for an international assistance program for the refugees. The two presidents emphasized that a just and stable world order could only be based on the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. The two sides reiterated their commitment to the settlement of disputes through peaceful means.

The communique says President Mohammad Ziaul Haq informed the Nigerian president of the efforts for improving relations between Pakistan and India, notably, the setting up of a joint commission and Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression pact with India. The two leaders agreed that guarantees of nonaggression between the two neighbors would ensure a lasting climate of peace in the region and facilitate the process toward a relationship of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and India.

The two sides reiterated the conviction that a just and lasting solution in the Middle East will only be achieved after the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories including east Jerusalem. They appealed to Iran and Iraq to end the war and resolve their differences through peaceful means. They expressed their solidarity with the liberation movement in southern Africa and strongly condemned the racist regime of South Africa. The two sides reiterated their adherence to the policy of nonalignment and emphasized the need to further strengthen it.

The two leaders agreed to work closely toward the realization of a new international economic order and called for a common approach among developing countries in the North-South dialogue. Both countries have agreed in principle to set up a joint commission to provide a durable institutional framework to regulate relations between the two countries. They agreed that conditions are right for further promotion of these relations in all areas on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

'Very Warm' Sendoff

BK311639 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The Nigerian president was given a very warm sendoff when he left Karachi for home this afternoon after a 4-day visit to Pakistan. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq saw off the distinguished guest. Those also present to say goodbye included Sind Governor Lieutenant General S.M. Abbasi, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Federal Minister for Production Lieutenant General Said Qadir, provincial ministers, Federal Advisory Council members, members of provincial councils, prominent citizens, and high civil and military officials.

Before enplaning, the Nigerian president told newsmen that the proposed Pakistan-Nigeria joint commission will periodically hold meetings to promote cooperation between the two countries in economic and other fields.

Earlier, addressing a news conference at Karachi Airport, he said he was looking forward to the early promotion of cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria in areas identified during his visit. He said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has assured him that Pakistan will help Nigeria benefit from Pakistan's experiences in agriculture and other fields.

In reply to another question, the Nigerian president appreciated the efforts being made by Pakistan to establish an Islamic system in the country. The Nigerian president was accorded a very enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Karachi from Lahore.

ZIA GREETS INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY ANNIVERSARY

BK260503 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The president today extended sincere good wishes to President Zail Singh on the Republic Day of India. The president, in his message, recalled with satisfaction his recent visit to New Delhi and the decisions the Pakistani and Indian Governments have made to strengthen mutual understanding and to promote cooperation. He said he is looking forward to the continuation of their dialogue in pursuit of their common objective of good-neighborly relations and peace and stability in the region.

MUSAVI: SADDAM WOULD DO BETTER TO GO TO PARIS

GF311730 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb [as received] IRNA -- Prime Minister Musavi said today that the willingness of Saddam to come here and negotiate with the imam to end the war was aimed at deceiving world public opinion. Saddam wanted to pretend to be the representative of the Iraqi nation, he continued. We believe, said the prime minister, in order to end the war, Saddam would do better to go to Paris and form a union with Bani-Sadr and Rajavi

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,200

LD311730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,200 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates all Muslims and oppressed people of the world, especially the Muslim and struggling people of Iran, on the occasion of 30 January, anniversary of the blessed return of the imam of the nation to the Islamic homeland and the start of the 10 days of dawn.

During the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued on the border fronts in Ilam and Bakhtaran. On those fronts, the fighters of Islam inflicted heavy weapons fire on enemy defense lines, controlled all enemy movements and activities of the armored and infantry units of the aggressive forces, and stopped their engineering work.

In the Marivan region, enemy positions and concentrations or the other side of the border came under our heavy weapons' fire and the enemy's road building activities were stopped. In the southern fronts, our powerful forces maintained their superiority and control over the entire region under their protection, responded to enemy fire, and silenced the fire of the forces of Saddam. A number of enemy personnel were shot by our sharpshooters during their infiltration attempts inside the enemy frontlines and were killed.

During the past 24 hours, enemy aerial aggressions against border regions and operational zones in the southern and western parts of the country were repulsed by the timely fire of the antiaircraft units and the tactical operations of the Air Force fighter planes.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

OFFICIALS MEET WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISER

Foreign Affairs Minister

LD291314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, He Ying, senior adviser to the PRC minister of foreign affairs, who came to Tehran at the head of a delegation, today met with our country's foreign affairs minister, Mr Velayati. During the meeting, the senior adviser to China's foreign affairs minister said: We oppose both superpowers because of their aggressive motives and because of the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan and the U.S. record in Lebanon with regard to Palestine.

The senior adviser to China's foreign minister also added: We believe that the forces of the Third World are growing and they are the only forces that can stand against the influence of the superpowers. In fact, this growth is like the sun when it is rising.

Commenting on the Iran-Iraq war, he said: We know which country started the war and we are in favor of a fair solution to end the war on the basis of the interests of the two sides.

While expressing pleasure in his visit to Iran in the month of Bahman, the month of victory of the Islamic Revolution, he stated: We praise the struggles of the Islamic Republic of Iran against world arrogance and hegemony. In conclusion, he invited our country's foreign minister to visit China.

During the meeting, Mr Velayati commented on the war: It is not a difficult task to find the aggressor; it is sufficient to review the matter to see which side has occupied the territory of the other side. He added: The Iraqi regime was defeated by Islamic Iran, despite all the arms and equipment placed at Iraq's disposal and despite the support of the Eastern and Western powers and their allies. Islamic Iran defeated Iraq despite all the shortages, because an Iranian soldier has faith and a cause. Our country's foreign minister went on: Our foreign policy rejects both domination and being dominated and this is exactly one of the principles of Islam.

While thanking the Chinese official for his invitation to visit that country, Mr Velayati said he will visit China at an appropriate time. Mr Velayati added: Iran and China enjoy various degrees of strength and capabilities and this provides suitable grounds for cooperation and expansion of relations between the two countries.

According to the same report, the PRC delegation also met yesterday with Mr 'Azizi, under secretary to the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

During the meeting, which lasted 4 hours, Mr 'Azizi expounded the neither East nor West policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and described Iran's stand with regard to the Iraqi imposed war, the occupation of Afghanistan, and the acts of aggression by the Zionist regime against Islamic countries.

While explaining China's foreign policy, the senior adviser to the PRC foreign affairs minister said: We are against these acts of aggression waged by the Eastern and Western powers in Afghanistan and the Islamic countries and we would like to cooperate and expand our relations with Third World countries.

Deputy Majlis Speaker

LD310013 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The Public Relations Office of the Majlis has announced: The PRC delegation, headed by the senior adviser to the foreign minister of that country, met Seyyed Mohammad Khamene'i, deputy Majlis speaker, this afternoon. During this meeting, also attended by 'Ali Khorram, Iranian ambassador to the PRC, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and two Majlis deputies, the expansion of mutual relations and the past struggles of the Chinese and Iranian nations against colonialism and exploitation were discussed.

Stressing that the Muslim nation of Iran is an enemy of hegemonists and racists, the deputy Majlis speaker said: The Iranian nation condemns the Soviet Union for violating the freedom and rights of the Afghan nation and condemns the United States for creating corruption and treason throughout the world. This is why Iran is considered a thorn in the side of imperialism.

At the end of the meeting, the mutual stands of the two countries in the struggle against colonialism, imperialism, and racism and the importance of maintaining world peace were endorsed.

Prime Minister Musavi

LD312346 Tehran IRNA in English 2008 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31, IRNA -- While stressing Iran's "neither East nor West policy" Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said in a meeting with the Chinese Foreign Ministry advisor He Ying today that Iran hoped to expand its relations with China.

Musavi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had followed an active revolutionary policy in international affairs. He added that Iran supported the struggles of the deprived (?peoples and) made efforts to unify Third World countries and for strengthening the position of the Non-aligned Movement.

The prime minister said that one of the most important principles of the Iranian Muslim people was to avoid dependence either on the West or East, "which demonstrates our non-alignment towards the big powers."

On the Iraqi imposed war, he said that from the very beginning the Islamic Republic had made it clear that it would not accept unfair conditions." We have the right to break the hand of the aggressor so that no one would take up aggression ever again." Musavi said, "Lasting peace will come (?when) the aggressor is suppressed and punished."

KHOMEYNI ASKS MERCHANTS TO HELP GOVERNMENT

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[Text] Tehran, Jan 30 IRNA -- The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, told a group of merchants from the bazaars in Tehran and other cities that with the huge expenses of the government in the Iraqi imposed war, as well as its expenses of caring for the Iranian, Iraqi and Afghan refugees, all the nation should help the government as much as they can, including the wealthy.

Excerpts:

The bazaaris, as all of us know, have been one of the large sectors of the society which has been committed to Islam and whenever Islam faced difficulty they have been in the forefront to give help. It has been the bazaaris along with all other sectors of the society, such as the farmers and workers who have been in the forefront of the struggle, and they have tolerated hardships and have done all they could to advance the cause of Islam.

So in these past 50 years (before the victory of the revolution) the (former) regime had put much pressure on the bazaaris because it feared them very much. I hope the government will pay special attention to the bazaar merchants and do whatever it can to serve them.

The thing I must tell you about the government and the knowledge I have of those in charge of the government is that I have been acquainted with some of them for many years and some I have come to know during the time they have been serving in office. You should not think that you can find anyone in all of the world, from among presidents and kings, someone like Mr Khamene'i (the president), who is committed to Islam and who is trying to serve this nation wholeheartedly, because you cannot. And during this period in which the Majlis has been established, I cannot name one person who is not committed to Islam.

Of course there are differences in views and taste. There exists differences among the jurisprudents and among the ulema as well as among you gentlemen, but all share this view that they are servants and that they want to be servants.

Now I want to tell you gentlemen about some of the difficulties which the government is facing so that you can see that despite these they have done many things all over the country, things that have not been in the past 50 years. Aren't they worthy of praise and appreciation?

One of the issues now is the issue of war. Some of you might know how much a war costs a day, how much ammunition it needs and other expenses. The war itself costs several hundreds of millions rials each day, and then add the cost of the (?deviations) caused by the war, and following that the crimes the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has committed against this deprived nation, and the war refugees which are more than one or two million, the Iraqi and Afghan refugees, who have many problems. The government is in charge of handling these affairs and if it is to handle these difficulties along with its other affairs, of course in such a case the people must give a lot of help. The difficulties of the government today are to such an extent that the budget which you have heard of is not even sufficient to cover the government's expenses. It is the people who should contribute towards straightening out this affair.

If we assume that Imam 'Ali (AS) was in Iran at this moment and saw that a group like Saddam and his supporters had attacked Iran and caused destruction, and if he sensed that Islam and the nation of Islam were in danger would he sit and exhort?

Would he say that he would manage everything by himself? If he says that there was not enough money from taxes alone, he would then order that those who were poor go aside and then gather money from those who were wealthy, like those who make 1000 million rials a year, who don't care about such issues (like war) and who made thousands of millions of rials in one deal without considering any regulations. But merchants are not this way, but there are some among them who are [words indistinct] were here and this was not sufficient he would send his robe and my robe and your hats (anything) that was aimed at preserving the country of Islam and to guard the reputation of this nation. Well now such a threat exists and it faces not one sector but everyone. Is it just in such circumstances to hoard and to strain this nation? Is it just that in such a situation to see over-pricing and to infuriate the government, or should we help this government? Are we not responsible to help? It is a religious duty for these honorable merchants and the bazaaris to fight against over-pricing.

The issue is the issue of the U.S., not the issue of Saddam. It is the issue of France and the issue of the Soviet Union. We are at war today. The issue of war is no joke. The costs are no joke. Resistance in a war is no joke.

There are some who import goods and sell it at several times their price, and there are some who hoard. What should this poor government do? Is it possible for the government to forget about the war, the refugees and the deprived? Therefore we should consider the government's difficulties, the difficulties of the poor and the deprived and the difficulties of the refugees. A government which spends thousands of millions of rials every month for war only, and a government which has oil as its major source of income, then the people should make up for the rest. The generous people should help. We advise and ask them to help this government.

The government should serve you and the deprived to the extent possible and on the other hand you gentlemen should serve as well.

However, this which I have just said will reach the ears of many who have less capital or resources. But there are also a group who have enormous wealth, and they will not heed my words very much, and their case will be in the hands of the Almighty God.

MUSAVI-ARDABILI ON HOARDING, HOUSING SHORTAGE

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[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the blessed return of the great leader of the revolution to the Islamic homeland, millions of our homeland's committed people took part in Friday prayers. Friday prayers also were held at Tehran University under the imamate of Ayatolla Musavi-Ardabili.

Referring to the probelm of hoarding when there are long lines of people wanting to buy essential commodities and commenting on the problem of housing shortage while there are so many empty houses, the provisional Friday imam of Tehran said: There are 200,000 homeless families in Tehran, but landlords of the empty houses are not prepared to rent their houses at any price. Why is it so? And why is the black market paralyzing the economy? A nation that can face the most sophisticated and ultramodern weapons empty-handed and with a smile becomes disgusted when it sees these scenes.

Referring to landlords who force their tenants to vacate their premises, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: Such landlords are economic terrorists. These landlords sit in one house and own 10 other empty places. He pays neither tax nor rent and observes other people who are gradually becoming more deprived because of social injustice, economic injustice, and faulty economic policy. What can we do about this problem?

The provisional Friday imam of Tehran referred to the war imposed by the Zionist Saddam on Islam and the Islamic Republic. He said: Our first problem is still the war. We have no alternative but to garner all our abilities and to sincerely sacrifice the last drops of blood in our bodies. As long as the war remains unresolved to the advantage of this nation we will continue to move forward until our last dying breath. Saddam is backed by the Soviet Union and its missiles and sophisticated weapons, by the United States -- this archsatan -- by reactionary governments of the region and by Europe. But we have God; we have relied on a power that no other power can resist; and we are sure of this.